

Mr. Cashman

INT. DAY - APPARTMENT

The modern-looking apartment is filled with old-timey furniture. ELAINE, 37, sits on the couch. BARNEY, mid 40's, stands behind the couch, waiting for her to say something. ELAINE LOOKS BACK AT HIM.

ELAINE
Are you nervous?

BARNEY
Yes. Are you?

ELAINE
No.

BARNEY
Good. There is no sense in both of us being nervous.

ELAINE
Can I have a cigarette?

Barney feels his pockets pointlessly.

BARNEY
I don't smoke.

ELAINE
Then what are you feeling your pockets for?

BARNEY
Its just a reflex, I guess.

ELAINE
You don't have any in the apartment?

BARNEY
It's not my apartment.

ELAINE
I see.

She takes a deep breath and regains her composure.

ELAINE (CONT')
You just borrow it once in a while?

(CONTINUED)

BARNEY

No, nothing like that. It's my mother's apartment actually.

ELAINE

You're not actually serious?

BARNEY

I am.

ELAINE

Is she gonna join us?

BARNEY

She doesn't get home until five. She does charity work. She likes to help needy people.

ELAINE

Like us?

BARNEY

Er... Would you like a drink?

ELAINE

Hit me.

BARNEY goes to the MINIBAR.

BARNEY

I'm sorry. I should have offered you one right away. I have a B&J Scotch. Is that all right?

ELAINE

I'll have a B&J.

He takes a bottle and two glasses out of a paper bag. He covertly smells his fingers.

ELAINE (CONT')

You brought glasses? What, were you afraid your mother would notice if you used her's?

ELAINE Stands up from the couch and approaches him.

BARNEY

Well, she's a very meticulous woman, and I wouldn't want things to get complicated.

BARNEY pours scotch into the glasses.

(CONTINUED)

ELAINE

I think you did the smart thing.

BARNEY smiles at her and hands her a drink

ELAINE(CONT')

Do you know you have a nice smile?

BARNEY

Well, thank you, but... I'm
the one who's supposed to say
nice things to you...

ELAINE

All right. Say nice things to me.

Elaine WALKS toward the couch.

BARNEY

You're an attractive woman.

ELAINE

That's it? You came off better
than I did.

ELAINE sits on the couch.

ELAINE(CONT')

Cheers.

BARNEY

Cheers!

They both drink. She, a healthy slug; he, just a sip and he
winces. BARNEY sits down next to her, leaving his glass on
the coffee-table. He covertly smells his fingers.

ELAINE

You just did it again.

BARNEY

Did what?

ELAINE

Smelled your fingers. That's
the third time you smelled your
fingers since I'm here.

BARNEY

Did I do that?

ELAINE

Is that an occupational hazard? Owning a fish restaurant and always worrying how your fingers smell?

BARNEY

It's the oysters...I try to conceal it, I use soap, perfume, aftershave...

ELAINE

I wouldn't worry about it if I were you.

BARNEY

Well, it's not the suavest thing in the world.

Beat.

BARNEY(CONT'D)

You're a very unusual woman Elaine.

ELAINE

In what way?

BARNEY

Like the way you came to my restaurant. I've never seen you there before and suddenly you come back for lunch eight days in a row. What is that?

ELAINE

I get cravings.

BARNEY

You mean to eat?

ELAINE

To eat, to touch, to smell, to do... A sensual, physical pleasure that can only be satisfied at that particular moment.

BARNEY

You mean like a cold coke after an hour of golf?

ELAINE

I'm going to have trouble with you, right? ... I have a craving for another Scotch.

(CONTINUED)

He goes over to grab her glass.

ELAINE(CONT')
What time is it?

BARNEY
Ten after three.

BARNEY pours another scotch into her glass.

ELAINE
We've got an hour and
fifty minutes. Okay, you want to
make the first move?

BARNEY
Boy, you're very open about
things, aren't you?

ELAINE
So you're not going to make the
first move.

BARNEY
Sure I am. I just thought we'd
finish our drinks first.

BARNEY hands her her drink.

ELAINE
Did you ask me to come up here
to have an affair or not?

BARNEY
Look, I don't deny my
intentions were of a romantic
nature...

ELAINE
Okay. All right. I'm flexible.
I'll try things your way..what did
you want to see me about Mr.
Cashman?

BARNEY
Ooh, Elaine, don't be like that.

ELAINE
Well, maybe I just don't
understand you.

BARNEY

I just thought you wanted to
know more about me.

ELAINE

Look, you were the one who
wrote down an address on the back
of my check. Then I come here
and find out we've got an hour
and fifty minutes before your momma
comes home. Are you going to make
a move or not?

Beat. She STANDS UP.

BARNEY

Where are you going?

ELAINE

Outside, Looking for cigarette
butts...

She CHUGS her drink and leaves the frame. Barney is left
alone, smelling his fingers.

(FADE TO CREDITS)